

OVERVIEW

USE OF CONTRACTS IN THE NTP TESTING PROGRAM

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The National Toxicology Program (NTP) makes extensive use of contracted resources. Many of these contracts support the conduct of research and testing activities. Basically, this is because the size and number of studies requires facilities and personnel far beyond what are available to us on campus at the NIEHS.

For the research and testing program, there are several different categories of contracted resources routinely used by the NTP to provide information and conduct laboratory activities.

- Scientists under contract produce background documents on substances nominated for testing that summarize the scientific literature, identify data gaps, and aid in designing studies.
- Chemists conduct studies to characterize test articles and formulations and additionally perform toxicokinetic studies as well as determine test article residues in tissues for estimation of internal dose. Other chemists under contract conduct studies of absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of administered test articles.
- Contracted study laboratories perform several types of bioassays included in the array of NTP studies for evaluation of cancer and noncancer endpoints.
- Pathologists perform quality assurance evaluations of the tissues from studies as part of the NTP pathology review process. In addition, contractors maintain NTP Archives for storage of samples, slides, and data from NTP studies.
- Statisticians help reduce and summarize study data so that results can be evaluated.
- Contracted resources facilitate preparation of NTP technical reports authored by NTP scientists.
- Finally, contracted data management personnel and database developers archive NTP data and make it available to the public through our website.

This discussion will provide an overview of the types of contracts used by the NTP in its research and testing program and where in the lifetime of a study these contracts perform functions necessary to the program.